Contact Information and Short Biographies of the Presenters

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Dr. Brewster Conant Jr. is an adjunct Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Waterloo and has 30 years of experience in hydrogeology and environmental consulting. He received a B.Sc. in Geology-Physics/Mathematics from Brown University in 1984, and received a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Earth Sciences at the University of Waterloo in 1991 and 2001, respectively. His main area of expertise and interest is in interactions at the groundwater/surface water interface and the examination of flow, transport, and fate of contaminants passing through it. He has developed innovative field methods, instrumentation, and numerical techniques for assessing groundwater/surface-water interactions using temperature as a tracer and infrared thermography.

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Tamara Ohl is an environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She has been with EPA for over 20 years, applying her experience in key RCRA regulatory and policy decisions, and managing corrective action projects. She currently serves as a corrective action project manager with EPA's Region 5 office, in Chicago, IL.

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Dr. Martin Briggs has been a research hydrologist with the USGS, Office of Groundwater, Branch of Geophysics for 4 years. Martin received a MS in hydrology from the Colorado School of Mines in 2009, and a PhD in hydrogeology from Syracuse University in 2012. Martin's research expertise involves quantifying surface water/groundwater exchange dynamics using various physical and geophysical methods, with a specialty in the heat tracing of waters. The Branch of Geophysics supports federal, state, and academic work concerning contaminant transport, aquatic habitat, and climate change at numerous sites nationwide.

Bruce Duncan, Ph.D.

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Dr. Bruce Duncan is an ecotoxicologist (Ph.D. - Zoology (Marine Ecology); University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) who has worked for USEPA since 1984. In the past he has served as a Senior Ecologist. He conducted ecological risk assessments; was an acting unit manager of risk assessors, modelers, and biologists; and provided climate science support. As a Deputy Unit Dive Officer he has conducted impact assessments, evaluated contaminated sediment effects, and characterized groundwater - surface water connections using in situ testing, deploying SPMEs (solid phase micro extraction - coated carbon fibers) to evaluate bioavailability, and installing diver-deployed seepage meters and mini-piezometers. He currently is the Region 10 science liaison to EPA's Office of Research and Development working with senior management in ORD's Six National Program Offices. He also manages the Region 10 work of ORD's Office of Science Policy which includes the RARE program (Regional Applied Research Effort).

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René Fuentes is an Environmental Scientist (Hydrogeologist) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Environmental Assessment (previously with Office of Drinking Water). He has worked in EPA's Region 10 office in Seattle (from 1983 to 2016) and EPA's Region 9 office in San Francisco (from 1980 to 1983) in the Water, Superfund, & RCRA Offices. His experience includes work on sites as technical support for characterization and remediation. Special field projects include numerous groundwater/surface water interaction sites, water supply contamination characterization, and groundwater contaminated sites such as the Yakima Valley Dairies nitrates site. Prior to joining EPA he was at the U.S. Geological Survey, Illinois District (1976-1980) where he was a hydrologist working on strip mine reclamation with sludge (monitoring water) and HEC-1 modeling.

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Ben Bentkowski is a hydrogeologist in the Scientific Support Section of Region 4's Superfund Division where he works on groundwater and vapor intrusion problems. Since leaving the oil patch 31 years ago, he has exclusively worked on contaminated groundwater problems in Region 4; the last 8 years with EPA.

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Bill Brandon has been working as a geoscientist for over 30 years. His experience includes mineral resource exploration, nuclear waste repository characterization studies, water supply assessment and protection, and waste site characterization and remediation. He has been employed as a technical support hydrogeologist with US EPA Region 1 since 1994. His interests and expertise include development of innovative characterization approaches and development of robust conceptual site models in support of remediation projects. In concert with these efforts, Mr. Brandon has been on the forefront of developing simple, effective, and low-cost approaches for assessing the groundwater – surface water interface. These tools and techniques have been used with great success at numerous waste sites in Region 1 for over 10 years. Mr. Brandon graduated from Vanderbilt University with a B.S. in Geology and from the University of Montana with an M.S. in Geology.